

Cops stop Congress march to Raj Bhawan in Jammu, many detained

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JAMMU: Scores of Congress workers tried to take out a march to the Jammu and Kashmir Raj Bhavan here on Thursday in protest against the Enforcement Directorate's questioning of party leader Rahul Gandhi, but were stopped and detained by police.

Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) president G A Mir and several leaders were among those detained.

Congress leaders and workers assembled outside the party office at Shaheedi Chowk and tried to take out the march towards the Raj Bhavan when police took them into preventive custody.

"We have come together to lodge our strong protest against the BJP-led central government which is trying



JKPCC Working President, Raman Bhalla being stopped by by police officers during a protest march.

to silence the voice of people by implicating Rahul Gandhi in a fake case, Mir told reporters.

He said they are also protesting against the police action against party activists in the national capital, where senior leaders, including Members of Parliament, were dragged out of the party headquarters.

"This is not democracy and people will not tolerate

this," he said and accused the Narendra Modi government of destroying the democratic culture in the country and creating mistrust among the people. He said the Congress would not be cowed down by such tactics and would fight back the repressive policies of the government and safeguard the democracy. Among others who were detained by the police were JKPCC working president Raman

Bhalla, vice president Mula Ram and chief spokesperson Ravinder Sharma.

Meanwhile, the party issued an advisory to caution all workers against any sort of indecency against the prime minister or any other leader and the authorities while expressing their anger against the highly objectionable and vindictive actions of the government against the party leadership.

"Since there is a lot of anger, for quite justified reasons, amongst the party men over the ongoing illegal and undemocratic actions against Rahul Gandhi and other top leadership, there is possibility of someone losing control over words or may be provoked by some vested interests to utter any irresponsible words. "While we have every right and reason to strongly protest the actions of the Modi govern-

ment, it is strictly advised to all party men to be very careful in choosing their words or slogans and not to indulge in any kind of indecency in their protests, the advisory stated, adding anyone not following it will be acted against by the party.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi appeared before the ED on Wednesday for the third consecutive day of questioning in the National Herald money laundering case. He has been summoned for questioning for the fourth time on Friday.

The probe pertains to alleged financial irregularities involving Young Indian Private Limited, promoted by the Congress, that owns National Herald.

The newspaper is published by Associated Journals Limited (AJL) and owned by Young Indian.

IGNOU UGC to launch three-year skill-based bachelor programme for 'Agniveers' under 'Agnipath' scheme

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To enhance the future career prospects of the recruits or 'Agniveers' under the 'Agnipath' scheme, the Ministry of Education has announced the launch of a special three-year skill-based bachelor's degree programme that will recognize the skill training received by them during their tenure in the defense establishments. The Army, Navy and Air Force will sign a Memorandum of Understand (MoU) with Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) for the implementation of the programme.

The programme has been designed by IGNOU and is aligned with University Grants Commission (UGC) norms and with National Credit Framework (NSQF) as mandated under the National Education

Policy (NEP) 2020.

Under this programme, 50% of the credits required for a graduate degree will come from the skill training (technical and non-technical) while a remaining will come from a variety of courses across subjects including Languages, Economics, History, Political Science, Sociology, Public Administration, Maths, Education, Commerce, Tourism, Vocational Studies, Agriculture and Jyotish, along with ability enhancement courses on Environmental Studies and Communication Skills in English. This programme is aligned with UGC norms and with the National Credit Framework / National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) as mandated under the National Education

Policy 2020. It also has provision for multiple exit points - Undergraduate Certificate on successful completion of the first year courses, Undergraduate Diploma on successful completion of the first and second year courses, and Degree on completion of all the courses in three year time frame.

The framework of the programme has been duly recognized by the concerned regulatory bodies - All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET) and UGC. Degree will be awarded by IGNOU as per UGC nomenclature (BA; B. Com.; BA (vocational); BA (Tourism Management), and will be recognized both in India and abroad for employment and education.

VHP confident of peaceful culmination of upcoming Amarnath Yatra in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: VHP's Central Working President Alok Kumar on Thursday expressed confidence that the upcoming Amarnath yatra in Jammu and Kashmir will be incident-free given the measures taken by the government.

He also said the displaced Kashmiri Pandits will be rehabilitated back in the valley after all necessary measures will be taken to ensure their safety.

The devotees coming for darshan' (glimpse) of Baba Barfani (Amarnath) do so with their lives in their hands. More the challenge, so the number (of devotees) increases and as per my knowledge, there will be no untoward incident and the yatra will conclude successfully, Kumar told reporters on the sidelines of a sit-in protest at Sunderbani in Rajouri district.

The 43-day-long yatra to the 3,880 metre high holy cave shrine of Amarnath is scheduled to start on June 30 from the twin routes traditional 48-km Nunwan in south Kashmir's Pahalgam and 14-km shorter Baltal in central Kashmir's Ganderbal.

Protesters belonging to Bajrang Dal blocked Jammu-Rajouri national highway at Sunderbani for nearly two hours as part of the VHP's nation-wide protests against the June 10 violence in parts of the country.

Asked about the targeted killings by terrorists in Kashmir, he said it is a major

challenge and part of a conspiracy since 1947.

Earlier governments were supportive but this government (BJP) has taken various steps and the society is also standing with it. I have heard that those facing threats have been transferred to district headquarters, the VHP leader said.

Security forces are successful in foiling terrorist attacks 99 times, but they (militants) also succeed in carrying out one attack which is enough (for disturbing peace). The government has taken new measures and I am sure that the lives of the innocents will be safeguarded, he said.

On the return and rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits in the valley, he said the government is taking steps in this direction.

They will definitely return (to Kashmir) as the people in the valley have also understood that they will not live like this...they will not be sent with ordinary arrangements. Let there be patience on this and they will be sent only when there is adequate security for them, he said.

Responding to a question about threats held out to now-suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma, he said if any hand tries to reach her, that hand will be cut down .

"Whether she or (expelled BJP leader) Naveen Jindal had committed a crime or not will be decided by the court and not by the mob. We are on the roads against the

recent violence targeted against Hindus and warn the perpetrators that they will find us standing with police for the safety of our community, he said. He said both Sharma and Jindal need not to worry about the threats as the country is run by the rule of law with a man of 56 inch chest (leading the nation) .

Earlier, Kumar addressed the protesters and said the India of 2022 is different and the historic wrongs will be set right in accordance with the Constitution and the law of the land.

Bulldozers were sent to know the address of those behind last Friday violence and many of them were arrested and will be fined for the damage caused by them. The Indian government is strong enough to maintain law and order, he said, claiming that VHP and Bajrang Dal only act in self-defence for the safety of the Hindus.

The VHP leader said the Hindus are going to get back the places of their worship in both Kashi and Mathura through a legal course.

The birth place of Ram was returned and so will be our sacred places in both Kashi and Mathura as Shrivji is in a hurry'. Some people like (All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen chief Assaduddin) Owaisi has a problem, otherwise the Muslim community is largely concerned only for their bread and butter and do not believe in rioting, he said.

Jugal sanctions Rs 15 lakh for development of village Karwanda



MP Jugal Kishore Sharma along with party workers and residents of village Karwanda.

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JAMMU: Jugal Kishore Sharma Member of Parliament Lok Sabha Jammu Poonch along with DDC Chairman Bharat Bhushan on Thursday visited Booth No. 34,35,36 at village Karwanda and held door to door jansampark campaign at Karwanda Panchayat Balhwal in Raipur Domana Constituency. Member of Parliament also sanctioned Rupees 15 Lakh from his Member of Parliament Local Area Development Funds for Construction of Community

Hall & Lane Drain at Village Karwanda.

Member of Parliament while addressing the gathering said that Karwanda village of Raipur Domana Constituency is thickly populated and demand for construction of Community Hall & Lane Drain was raised collectively by the residents of village. People informed MP that in village there is neither ant facility to accommodate gathering in odd and even times. They also said that there is a old Se Mohalla in village Karwanda in which Lane is in very

dilapidated condition. Member of Parliament while listening to the demand of inhabitants sanctioned amount of rupees 15 lakh from his local area development funds so that demanded works can be executed. He also said that these works should be monitored by the local residents so that they should be completed with good quality and people can get their benefit for the long time.

Mandal President Ashok Kerni, Senior Leaders BJP Capt. Kuldeep Singh, Yuva Danish Mishra, Mangal Singh, Jagdish Singh, Bharat Bhushan, Vijay Bhagat, Swaran Singh, Ram Paul Sharma, Raman Singh, Narinder Singh Ex Sarpanch, Vaishno Devi, Mahila Rajni Devi, Manohar Lal, Ravi Dass Sabha Parshotam Thapa, Rattan Master and others present at the occasion.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BHADARWAH/JAMMU: Curfew was relaxed for three hours on Thursday morning in Bhadarwah town of Doda district as situation remained relatively peaceful with no untoward incident, officials said.

Shops and business establishments reopened around 9 am, immediately after authorities announced the relaxation in the curfew that was imposed on June 9 following communal tension triggered by the remarks on Prophet Mohammad by BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma, who was later suspended, and social media posts by some local right wing activists in her support.

The curfew had earlier been relaxed for two hours from 3.30 pm to 5.30 pm on Wednesday, for the first time in a week.

Deputy Commissioner, Doda, Vikas Sharma, who along with SSP Doda Abdul Qayoom is camping at Bhadarwah for the last seven days to monitor the situation, appealed to the peo-



People visiting market during curfew relaxation in Bhadarwah. (Pic by Raja Rehber Jamal)

ple to maintain communal harmony and assured them all restriction will be lifted soon. "The curfew was imposed as a precautionary measure to avoid any untoward incident but I am glad residents of this beautiful valley behaved in a mature manner: I hope they will not fell prey to nefarious designs of a handful of miscreants and will maintain age-old communal harmony and mutual brotherhood for their better future," Sharma said. "We have already lifted the restrictions in Doda, Thathri, and Gandoh towns and I assure if people here

behave well, the remaining restriction will be eased soon as during this peak season of 'Tourism, we want to see visitors not the security forces," he added. With the news of the relaxation, people in considerable number rushed to the markets in elation. They demanded complete withdrawal of restrictions from the town and restoration of the broadband and mobile internet services, which remained suspended in the entire Doda and Kishtwar districts for the eighth day. We are supplying Milk and milk products to the people living in

Curfew relaxed for 3 hours in Bhadarwah; situation peaceful

the town but in past seven days, we have not been able to earn a single penny. Shoukat Ali, a resident of Jai Meadow in the outskirts of Bhaderwah town, told PTL. He said over 200 nomadic families earn their livelihood supplying Milk to the people in the town and they have suffered huge losses since the clamp-down. Manzoor Ahmad, a labourer from Marwah, said he has been unable to earn a living since the curfew began.Bhaderwah Municipal Committee councillor Puneet Mehta expressed his incredulity at the long curfew in the town, ruing the setback to tourism. There is no justification for the prolonged restrictions. There was no clash or damage to public or private property. Instead of taking stern action against a few people involved in vitiating the peaceful atmosphere, the whole town was held hostage by imposing strict restrictions, he said. He demanded immediate lifting of the curfew that allows normal activities necessary for the revival of tourism after a

gap of three years. Social activist Muzamil Yazdian advocated for restoration of internet services for the benefit of the students and job aspirants. The NEET examination is scheduled for June 23 and the last date to file an application for the post of accounts assistant (panchayats) is also June 23. We demand for early restoration of at least the fixed line internet services, he said, urging the government to facilitate students by opening special counters with internet connections till restoration of the service.

J&K records 22 new COVID cases; Ladakh 7

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR/LEH: Jammu and Kashmir reported 22 new COVID-19 cases on Thursday, raising its tally to 4,54,420, officials said. Eighteen cases were reported from the Jammu and four cases from the Kashmir Valley, they said. There are 126 active COVID-19 cases in the union territory, while the number of recoveries has reached 4,49,542, the officials said. The COVID-19 death toll in the union territory stands at 4,752 as no fresh fatality was reported in the past 24 hours. Meanwhile, Ladakh has recorded seven fresh Covid cases that took the overall infection tally to 28,303. This was the highest single-day rise in over a month, they said. The number of active cases now stands at 28 – 26 in Leh and two in Kargil, they said. They said 22 of these cases were detected in the past week. According to officials, Ladakh has so far recorded 228 fatalities linked to the pandemic since its outbreak. Of the total fatalities, Leh accounts for the highest 168 deaths followed by 60 in Kargil, they said. The officials said all the seven fresh cases were reported from Leh, where one patient was also discharged after undergoing successful treatment for the infection. The overall recoveries now stands at 28,047, officials said.

FM, DIPAM launch India's biggest Financial Education Campaign to empower retail investors across 75 cities

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MUMBAI: To celebrate and commemorate 75 years of Independence and the glorious history of Indian people, culture, and achievements, the Government of India is celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. As a part of this celebration, on 10th June 2022, the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) took the special initiative to educate and empower investors in 75 cities, across the nation. The iconic mega-event was inaugurated by the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and the Minister of State (Finance). DIPAM's event was organised in coordina-

tion with the Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI), NSE, BSE, CDSL, and capital markets fraternity.

The Finance Minister launched an investor awareness campaign where all DIPAM and State Administration personnel made this iconic event a success, with over 450 speakers from financial institutions like NSE, BSE, SEBI, CDSL, NCDEX, AXIS Capital, and ICICI Securities to name a few. They spoke to thousands of investors and spread financial and capital market awareness at each of these locations. A Short film made by DIPAM was also shown at the event.

Summer Yoga camp commences in Zone Pouni



Participating children performing various Yoga Asanas during Summer Yoga camp.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POUNI: Six Days Summer Yoga Camp commences in zone Pouni at HSS Pouni in compliance to Fit India/ DSEJ orders as per the guidelines of worthy Chief Education Officer Reasi in collaboration with Zonal Education Officer Pouni and Principal HSS Pouni.

Jatinder Dev, Zonal Education Officer Pouni while speaking on the occa-

sion disclosed, the summer Yoga Camp is being organised prior to the celebrations of 8th International Yog Diwas 2022 on 21st june in zone Pouni where almost 100 students from adjoining schools are going to participate in six days summer camp and kids will be benefited with various yoga skills under the able guidance of various master trainers.

Suraj Parkash Khajuria

Principal HSS Pouni was also present on the occasion who earlier welcomed all participants in the camp and assured for all support in making it a grand success.

Sanjeev Kumar Sharma Zonal Nodal officer and MT Yoga made a strong appeal to all teaching fraternity and students of the zone to actively participate in ongoing summer Yoga Camp so that the yoga culture be imbibed in the daily routine of students for their harmonious development. Asanas skills will also be sharpened among students for their participation at varied level of yoga competitions informed ZNO. Ashwani Kumar,Sunil Sharma, Vikas sharma,Indar seth, Nitin Gandotra(All teachers) Bholi DEVI Lect, Ravinder kour PET, Opinder Pal Singh PET were present on the occasion.

